

CITY COUNT COST OF CUP DEFEAT

By PETER FULBROOK



BARRY LOWE — worked hard in midfield to try and get City back in the game.

WORCESTER CITY'S hopes of a money-spinning home FA Cup-tie with AFC Bournemouth were dashed when they went down 1-0 away to Isthmian Leaguers Wycombe Wanderers in last night's fourth qualifying round replay at Loakes Park.

The goal that sent City crashing to their first cup defeat of the season came from the head of Bobby Davies five minutes before the interval.

Although they showed plenty of fight and determination Worcester could have no complaints about the result.

Wycombe were faster on to the ball, and were always the more skilful side. The Wanderers had the bulk of the play territorially — they gained 12 corners, while City failed to force one.

As in Saturday's 1-1 draw at St George's Lane, Wycombe keeper Garry Lester was never seriously tested by a shot-shy City attack. Indeed, Worcester's best chance of the match came from full-back Mark Chambers late in the game.

City manager Nobby Clark is stepping up his

search for a goalscorer to halt the club's lean spell. Top of his list is Southend striker Mike Tuohy, but a lack of money is hampering his bid.

He said after last night's defeat: "We must ask ourselves if a couple of the players are good enough — or is their best good enough."

He added: "There is no way I can chastise any of my players on this evening's performance. Every player ran themselves into the ground, and I couldn't ask for more."

OUTSTANDING

Skipper Barry Lowe worked tremendously hard to get his side into the match, while Kevin Tudor and Graham Selby were outstanding at the back.

Worcester was soon under pressure on a sloping pitch and five times in the first ten minutes Tudor and Selby got in fine saving tackles.



KEVIN TUDOR — outs
Worcester

and Wycombe central defender Steve Hardwick, were involved in an exchange of punches but Oxford referee Mr Dennis Hedges let them off with only a lecture.

This proved Mr Hedges inconsistency in view of the fact that he had sent off Worcester's Paul Bevan and Wycombe's Tony Price, on Saturday for what was, compared to this, a minor incident.

In the 36th minute, City keeper Jimmy Cumbe produced a superb reflex save to push round a close range Steve Long header, but four minutes later Wycombe got the goal that was to decide the tie.

DEFLECTION

Lowe obstructed George Borg on the left hand side of the box and Long's free kick took a deflection as it went across goal.

Davies came powering in at the far post to head home his first goal of the season.

City replaced Steve Crompton with Eric Bowen 14 minutes into the second half, in an attempt to put more bite into the attack — and the visitors did come more into the picture.

Billy Telford grazed the crossbar with a header, Chambers shot just wide and Barry Lowe was not far away after linking up with Bowen.

But, on the other hand, Cumbe saved brilliantly from Price and Jimmy Jacobs shot wide with only the keeper to beat.

WORCESTER: Cumbe, Selby, Chambers, Tudor, Phelps, Lowe, Stephens, Williams, Telford, Crompton, Beresford. Sub: Bowen. Attendance: 1,993.